(c) A total of 40 civilians have been killed in these crashes.

(d) The regularised financial loss in respect of these MiG aircraft crashes is Rs. 17,71,70,60,026.00.

(e) A continuous and multi-faceted efforts is always being undertaken in the Indian Air Force to enhance and upgrade flight safety. Measures to enhance the quality of training to improve the skill levels, ability to exercise sound judgment and situational awareness of pilots are being pursued.

Constant interaction with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Original Equipment Manufactuers (OEMs) of concerned countries are also pursued to overcome the technical defects of aircraft. Besides, anti-bird measures are also undertaken.

Physical tests of women aspirants to the Army

7. SHRIMATI N.P DURGA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that unmarried women candidates between the ages of 21 to 27 are made to undergo physical test, including gynaecological tests by male doctors for the past ten years as part of the recruitment process in the Army; and

(b) the remedial measures proposed to get this sensitive issue affecting women resolved?

THE MrNISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) As far as possible, lady doctors examine female candidates, but due to availability of limited number of lady gynaecologists, it is not always possible for lady specialists to conduct the medical examination of female candidates at all stations. However, examination by a male gynaecologist, where necessary, is invariably carried out in the presence of a female nurse. Only visual examination to rule out any congenital abnormality is carried out and no internal examination is conducted.

Procedure of medical examination of female candidates has been reviewed by Armed Forces Medical Services and is being modified to ensure that in future gynaecological examination of female candidates is peformed by lady doctors.